

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
EDWARD JESSER

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Edward "Ned" Jesser, resident of Mahwah, New Jersey, and proud and enthusiastic supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Jesser will be honored today at the "Evening with the Governors" 2001 Good Scout Awards of the Northern New Jersey Council Boy Scouts of America. With more than forty years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America, he will be the recipient of the Distinguished Scouter Award. The Boy Scouts of America pride themselves on producing fine citizens, strong family members, and community leaders. In this respect, Ned Jesser truly leads by example.

Today, Mr. Jesser sits on the Executive Board of the Northern New Jersey Council of Boy Scouts. However his involvement with the scouts began some forty years ago as the President of Bergen County Council of Scouts. It is his firm belief that scouting truly creates good lives and good citizens. Mr. Jesser has said that "scouting is the only national organization that is making a major effort to bring a better and healthier life for our boys." Clearly, this man is recognized as a leader for scouts—and a committed one at that!

As I am sure Mr. Jesser's wife Ruth can attest, Mr. Jesser is a very active member of the Bergen County community. Mr. Jesser served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Summit Bank for twenty years. In addition, he has sat on many boards in our county. To list just a few of his involvements: President of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, President of the New Jersey Bankers Association, and Trustee of Lafayette College. As a man who is generous with his time and his talents, Mr. Jesser has truly contributed to making northern New Jersey a better place to live.

A fine citizen, a family man, and an involved community leader, Mr. Jesser is not only an outstanding role model for Scouts, but also an outstanding example of the fine residents of Bergen County. He contributes much to both the development of young men in our region, and to our community itself. Ned Jesser, we are lucky to have you with us.

IN HONOR OF P.O. NIURCA
QUINONES AND P.O. DARRELL
CLARK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Police Officers Niurca Quinones and Darrell Clark in recognition of their outstanding work to rid the streets of Bedford-Stuyvesant from the scourge of drugs.

Officer Quinones joined the New York City Police Department on April 30, 1991. Officer

Clark joined the New York City Police Department on October 15, 1990. Both officers were assigned to the 79th Precinct, where they worked together as partners. As a unit, they have done an outstanding job in serving the community of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

In a short period of time, these officers have successfully reduced the presence of drugs and the number of drug-related crimes. In the past two years alone, these officers executed 48 search warrants leading to 97 arrests. Officers Quinones and Clark also recovered 14 guns, 300 rounds of ammunition, 436 decks of heroin, 1 large bag of heroin, 167 vials of crack, 412 glass vials of crack, 10 oz. of crack, three pounds of marijuana, 51 bottles of hydro, 284 bags of marijuana, and over \$9,000 in illegal funds.

Mr. Speaker, Officers Quinones and Clark are two outstanding examples of New York's finest. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help clear the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of dangerous drugs and criminals. As such they are more than worthy of our praise. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these two dedicated public servants.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AND
DOLLY MASON

HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Edward and Dolly Mason, and to honor the memory of their son, Eddie. On March 10, 1999 Eddie Mason died of a sudden and unexpected heart attack. The death of their son, less than three weeks before his nineteenth birthday, was a bitter and heart wrenching tragedy for the Masons. I know the Mason family; it has been personally painful for me to witness their struggle to cope with such an inconsolable loss.

Eddie Mason was a vibrant young man who embraced life; one who sought the opportunities presented each day. At the age of fifteen, he was diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia, a degenerative neurological disease that impairs muscular function throughout the body. His condition, however, was not life-threatening. Indeed, Eddie's passion for athletic endeavors was unquenchable. From an early age, Eddie was an avid participant in soccer, baseball, football, and wrestling; he also pursued karate, achieving the rank of Green Belt after eight years of training. Yet, Eddie's excellent physical conditioning offered no protection against the deadly symptoms of his disease.

The Masons' grief for their son will never be completely assuaged. Ed and Dolly, however, hoped to preserve Eddie's memory at the community church their family has attended for many years. Accordingly, twelve months ago, the Mason family resolved to construct the tower that now stands between the sanctuary and rectory of St. Luke's Church in Edgemere, Maryland. I was honored to be present at the ground breaking ceremony held on March 27, 2001, the twenty-first anniversary of Eddie's birth. Seeing such familial de-

votion and community support is something I will not soon forget.

On Sunday, October 14, at St. Luke's Church, a thirty-five-foot bell tower, the home of "Eddie's Bell," was officially blessed. In the presence of over 350 neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens, the Masons' tribute to their son was consecrated, and "Eddie's Bell" rung for the first time.

Friends, family, neighbors, and even strangers have helped sustain the Masons since the terrible event of March 10, 1999. Yet, the newly created monument was not a community effort. The money and time required for the bell tower were invested solely by Ed and Dolly Mason. "Eddie's Bell" was a gift from "Mom and Dad" to the son they love so much.

The bell tower has become a centerpiece of St. Luke's Church. Each day the bell is rung at noon and six p.m.—its bold notes call members to worship before each weekend mass. The bell's toll can be heard up to two miles away, a range which includes the Mason home. I sincerely hope that Ed and Dolly will take comfort in the notes of "Eddie's Bell," knowing that all the love and devotion they feel for their son has been given musical form.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Mason family in Maryland's Second Congressional District, and I ask that my colleagues join me in offering them our deepest condolences for their loss, congratulations on their dedication to family and community, and our very best wishes for the future.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
REGARDING EFFORTS OF PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES OF KOREAN ANCESTRY TO REUNITE WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN NORTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 77, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress to reunite United States citizens with their family members in North Korea.

North and South Korea have made significant progress in their relationship, as has the United States made very important steps in its relationship with both North and South Korea in the past two decades. H. Con. Res. 77 is the next step.

This very important resolution recognizes the need to reunite Americans of Korean ancestry with their family members in North Korea.

Over 500,000 Americans of Korean ancestry were separated from family members with the division of North and South Korea. This simple measure will bring about a long awaited family reunion, over 50 years later.

I believe it is very important for the United States to be involved in reunification and peace efforts in Korea, and this resolution brings us one step closer. This is a significant effort in mending relations with North and South Korea, and their relationship with the United States.